

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application and are subject to requirement for restriction.

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has required restriction to one of the following inventions under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I) Claims 1-5 and 7-17.
- II) Claims 6 and 8.

Election

In order to be responsive to the requirement for restriction, Applicants elect the invention set forth in Group I, claims 1-5 and 7-17, with *traverse*.

Traverse

Notwithstanding the election of the claims of Group I in order to be responsive to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's requirement for restriction.

Applicants note that the present application is a National Stage application submitted under 35 U.S.C. § 371, and thus, Unity of Invention practice governs the issuance of any Restriction Requirement. Applicants respectfully note, however, that the Office based this Restriction Requirement on 35 U.S.C. § 121, and not the PCT Unity of Invention rules. For this reason alone, and consistent with Office policy as set forth in M.P.E.P. § 803, Applicants respectfully submit that the Restriction Requirement is improper, and respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the Requirement for Restriction.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider the requirement for restriction, and withdraw the same so as to give an examination on the merits on all

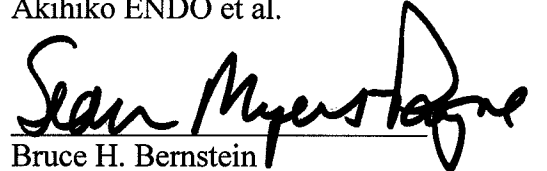
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of the claims pending in this application, for which Applicants have timely paid appropriate claim fees.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Akihiko ENDO et al.


Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191